

D. GEORGE STREET TRENCH

The last phase of this street improvement project consisted of the excavation of approximately 100 feet of trench along the west curb of George Street. This section of work began at the drain box located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Pollock and George Streets, approximately 40 feet north of datum point 3. The width of this trench was reduced to three feet in order to avoid difficulties that may have resulted during the removal of concrete paving (Figures 67 & 68).



Figure 67. Mechanical excavation of the George Street Trench, view north.



Figure 68. Removal of concrete pavement overlying Feature 10, view southeast.

1. Stratigraphy

The east and west profile were photographed and mapped between 40 and 75 feet north of datum point 3 (Figures 69 & 70); however, before the remaining 25 feet could be mapped the trench wall collapsed under the weight of the backhoe. Between 40 and 65 feet north of datum point 3, the east profile on George Street revealed the following stratigraphy (Table 25).

A change in the soil deposition is seen at about 65 feet north of datum point 3 (see Figure 70). The mottled yellowish brown sandy loam (zone 2) ends and, at about the same depth below surface and with the same variation in thickness, a light gray (10YR 7/1) sand was documented. At 70 feet north of datum point 3, a thin lens of reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4) sandy loam with a high concentration of shell-tempered mortar chunks overlays the light gray sand. Cultural material was recovered from zones 2-4 in the profile at 70 feet north of datum 3 (Provenience GST 6-8; Appendix B, Tables 55-57). Creamware and pearlware were recovered from zone 3; zone 4 contained creamware, black lead-glazed redware and Jackfield. No diagnostic ceramics were recovered from zone 2.

Table 25. East profile of the George Street Trench between 40 feet and 65 feet north of datum point 3.		
zone	feet below surface	description
asphalt	0-0.3	road pavement
concrete	0.3-0.75	road pavement
1	0.75-1.0	very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/1) sandy loam with small shell fragments
2	1.0-1.5	mottled yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy loam
3	1.5-1.7	mottled gray (10YR 5/1) and dark gray (10YR 4/1) storm sand
4	below 1.7	yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam

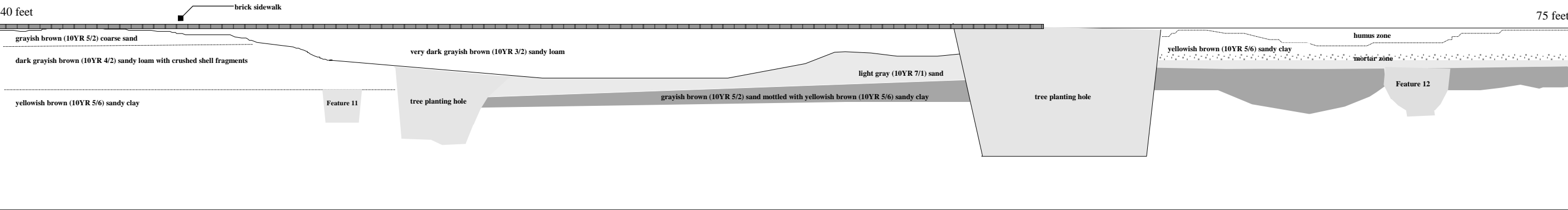


Figure 69. West profile of the George Street Trench between 40 and 75 feet north of datum point 3.

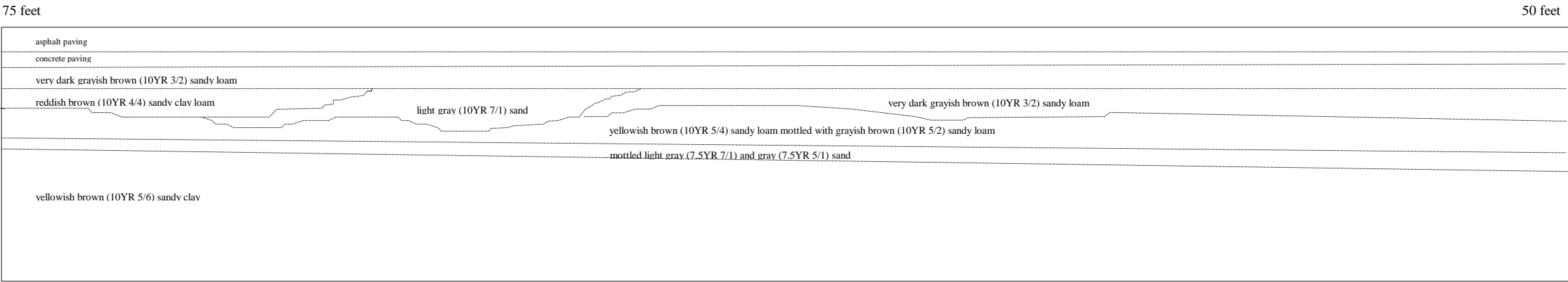


Figure 70. East profile of the George Street Trench between 50 and 75 feet north of datum point 3.

The west profile exhibited a much more complicated view of George Street (Figure 69). In place of the asphalt and concrete paving was the brick sidewalk for the Tryon Palace Visitor’s Center. The brick walk extended along more than half of the trench profile, the remainder was the grass area between the sidewalk in front of the John Wright Stanly House. Two tree planting holes and four post holes (Features 11-14) were also exposed in the west profile (see Figure 69).

As in the east profile, a zone of light gray (10YR 7/1) sand was recorded under the very dark grayish brown sandy loam, identified as zone 1 in both the east and west profile. However, in the west profile, this zone appears to have some of the characteristics of storm sand, such as marbling of light colored sand. Furthermore, it contained large chunks of shell-tempered mortar and brick fragments. In the description of the east profile at 70 feet, the mortar and brick were found in a lens of reddish brown sandy loam (zone 2) overlying the light gray zone (zone 3). Also in contrast, the east profile consistently shows a mottled light gray sand over the yellowish brown subsoil, whereas the west profile has a zone of grayish brown sandy loam with a few small mottles of yellowish brown over subsoil. Cultural material (Provenience GST 1-3; Appendix B, Tables 50-52) recovered from the west profile, however, was consistent with that collected from the east profile.

2. Features

Five features were documented in the George Street Trench (Table 26), this included Feature 10 that was located at the intersection of Pollock and George Streets. Feature 10 is a section of cobblestone paving covered with one course of brick bats. The remaining four features were post holes (Features 11-14) in the west profile. Of these, two (Features 13 and 14) were located in the last 25 feet of the trench. These two features were photographed but not mapped before the trench walls collapsed (Figures 71 & 72).

Table 26. Features recorded in the George Street Trench.						
number	recorded	position north of datum point 3	feature type	feature depth	temporal affiliation	provenience
10	7 June 1995	30 ft	cobblestone paving		18th century	**
11	7 June 1995	47-47.8 ft	post 1	0.5 ft	*	GST 4
12	7 June 1995	71-72.3 ft	post 2	0.5 ft	*	GST 5
13	8 June 1995	*	post 3	*	*	**
14	8 June 1995	*	post 4	*	*	**

* undetermined ** none



Figure 71. West profile of Feature 13.

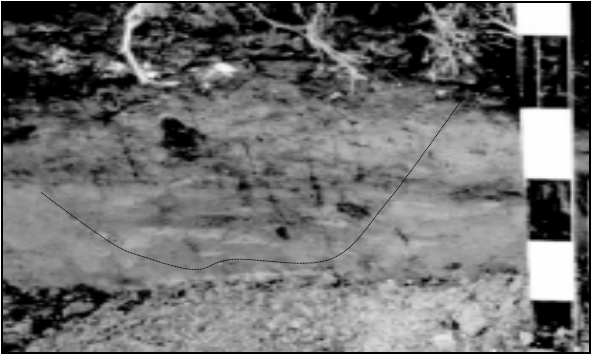


Figure 72. West profile of Feature 14.

Inspection and documentation of **Feature 10** was conducted in the most unusual circumstance encountered throughout the project. A large pit had been opened by the backhoe to facilitate extensive utility work including the replacement of a catch basin (Figures 73-80). Feature 10 was exposed in the east profile of this pit. Part of Feature 10 had been removed by the backhoe before the significance of the ballast stone became apparent. Documentation consisted of photographing the surrounding walls and mapping the east profile.



Figure 73. West profile at the intersection of Cross Pollock & George Street trenches.



Figure 74. North profile at the intersection of Cross Pollock & George Street trenches.



Figure 76. East profile at the intersection of Cross Pollock & George Street trenches.



Figure 75. South profile at the intersection of Cross Pollock & George Street trenches.

Figure 77. West profile of Feature 10 at the Pollock Street & George Street intersection. (Photo by John Green, on file at Tryon Palace Commission House, New Bern)



Just south of Feature 10, four soil zones were recorded (Table 27). Materials noted, but not recovered, include brown salt-glazed stoneware and burned pearlware or whiteware in zone 1 and creamware in zone 2. No cultural material was seen in zone 3. Attempts to pursue recovery were held back by the threat of a wall that undercut the pavement.

Table 27. South profile of the catch basin pit located at the intersection of the trench across Pollock Street and the George Street Trench.		
zone	feet below surface	description
asphalt	0-0.2	road pavement
concrete	0.2-0.7	road pavement
brick	0.7-1.0	road pavement
sand	1.0-1.1	builder's sand base for brick pavers
1	0.7-1.1	grayish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand with shell and brick fragments
2	1.1-1.6	grayish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand, dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand, hard-packed with brick fragments and shell
3	1.6-2.0	grayish brown (10YR 5/2) and yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) mottled with strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) clayey sand
4	below 2.0	yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam

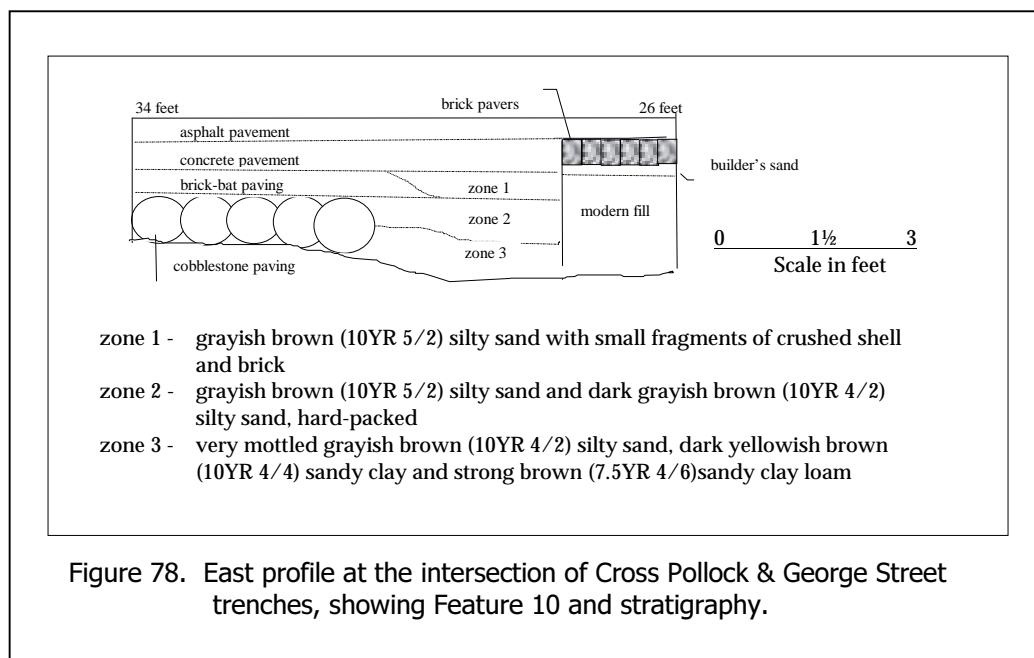


Figure 78. East profile at the intersection of Cross Pollock & George Street trenches, showing Feature 10 and stratigraphy.

As viewed in the west profile of the trench, **Feature 11** was a post hole (Figure 81). It was recorded between 47 feet and 47.8 feet north of datum point 3. The matrix of the feature is a mottled grayish brown (10YR 5/2) and yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy loam. The top of the feature was difficult to determine because the post hole was filled with soil that appeared in the overlying zone. The matrix of this feature and the overlying zone is a coarse grayish brown (10YR 5/2) sand containing crushed shell and brick fragments. The feature extended to a depth of 1¼ of a foot below surface into the yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) subsoil. Cultural material recovered from the profile of this feature consisted of small fragments of brick and one piece of coal (Provenience GST 4: Appendix B, Table 53).

A second post (Figure 82) was recorded as **Feature 12** in the west profile of the George Street trench between 71 and 72.3 feet north of datum point 3. The matrix of the feature is a mottled grayish brown (10YR 5/2) and yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy loam. This feature began at 1½ feet below surface and continued to 2.7 feet below surface, terminating in the yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) subsoil. The tan sandy loam mortar and brick zone post-dates this feature.



Figure 79.
Plan view of Feature 10, view southeast.



Figure 80. Ballast stone from Feature 10.



Figure 81. West profile of Feature 11 and
planting hole.



Figure 82. West profile of Feature 12.